

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
Tuesday 2/18/14
Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter

Hello members of the Appropriations Committee, also to everyone else.
My name is Barbara Albert, renter, registered voter in Hartford, CT. I am an Advocate for Human Rights on the Neighborhood, City, State, and National Levels. I'm an Advocate with Keep the Promise Coalition, and many other Human Rights Organizations. I have multiple medical challenges, and am on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability. I've testified on the Neighborhood level, at City Hall, here in the Legislative Office Building, and in Washington D.C. I participate in several volunteer jobs, when not overwhelmed by one or more of my many medical challenges. I did work 'regular jobs' before becoming too chronically ill.

The expression "falling through the cracks..." has always been way too familiar to me. I've recently collapsed through deep crevasses of an unfathomable abyss. My best friend died a few months ago. I've been diagnosed with more illnesses, while others are more severe and chronic. Lots of these, are medically, known as untreatable. Whoever, pseudo-omnipotent whoever, refers to me as "high functioning"...? I don't understand. ***I'm not 'non compliant'. I'm not just stubborn. I'm not just unwilling. I'm have not been getting my needs met,*** and am beyond frustrated and disgusted. There has been and is no help for the main mental health issue I have, just as a lot of my other illnesses. Most of us who do not have affordable access to qualified specialists, or hearing the honesty of, "I don't know, let's see if we can find out..." I also have to pay almost 7 times as much monthly premium this year for Medicare Part D prescriptions as last year. No State Benchmark Plan has any of my medications included within their plans. Neither does any Medicare part D Plan for that matter. I'm just as 'indigent' and 'unemployable' as I have been for how many years, becoming sicker, every day. Still like way too many Human Beings in our country that continue to make do without.

Funding for Health Care, NOT 'disease management', I believe is very much what needs to happen in our country. Not for corporate profit either. This works in other countries. Physicians actually get paid to help people stay healthy, people actually are healthier.

De-fund the War Budget. Un-friend ALEC.

Dorothy Day, a civil disobedience peace activist, said, "Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system." Please don't accept how things appear. Investigate. "If we don't question authority, we'll lose our humanity."

Thank you for listening.